

PRESS RELEASE: 1st April 2014

HSS HIRE ACQUIRES APEX GENERATORS
HSS adds increased capability to power solutions division in Scotland

HSS Hire Services Group (“HSS Hire”), the UK’s award-winning national supplier of tools, equipment and related services has acquired Apex Generators Ltd, the Scottish generator hire company, from owners Nevis Capital.

The acquisition will support the Group’s existing specialist power division - which includes their successful Abird business – enabling them to better service a wider geographical area. It will also give both Abird and Apex greater ability to fulfil national power solution contracts.

Apex Generators has an established market leading position throughout Scotland as an experienced generator hire specialists offering the highest levels of service to a significant customer base in the construction, house-building, events, industrial, marine and offshore sectors. HSS plans to retain the strong Apex brand whilst investing in the business – which will include installing their ‘RFM Smart Equipment’ technology to the Apex fleet.

Chris Davies, Chief Executive Officer at HSS Hire said: “The addition of Apex to the HSS Group is another solid step in the growth of our company as we continue to increase our presence in existing markets and expand into new ones throughout the UK and Ireland. It supports our existing power solutions capabilities, bolstering our specialist Abird power business and further enhancing our position as a trusted partner and service leader in the tools and equipment rental, outsourcing and services sector.”

Darron Cavanagh, Managing Director at Abird said: “We’re really pleased to welcome the Apex team to the Group. Their expertise and established presence in Scotland will not only help us to better serve our customers in this area but together we will also be able to offer all of our customers a truly national specialist power solution.”

Robert Gibson, Manager at Apex - and previously of LCH - said: “This is the start of an exciting new chapter for our business. With the support of the HSS Hire Group, we will be able to make further investment in our fleet, grow our network and deliver our excellent service levels to customers on a more national basis, whilst still retaining the specialist nature of our brand. We’re delighted to be joining the team.”

Brian Aitken, Partner at Nevis Capital, said “Apex has grown to be a successful generator hire business in Scotland across the construction, housebuilding, events, industrial and marine sectors. We have no doubt that the business is better together as part of a national operation such as HSS where it can continue to grow and develop”.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The transaction is the latest in a series of acquisitions by HSS Hire aimed at generating new growth and accelerating expansion throughout the UK and Ireland. Other recent acquisitions include:

- November 2013: TecServ, a specialist asset management service provider for companies operating in the cleaning sector.
- September 2013: The Irish division of Mobile Traffic Solutions (“MTS”), a specialist provider of traffic management equipment, from Dublin-headquartered Rennick’s Group, which HSS combined with its own Irish subsidiary, Laois Hire to accelerate expansion in Ireland.
- June 2013: UK Platforms, the powered access specialist which HSS acquired from Haulotte Group, making HSS the second-largest provider in the powered access market in Britain and Ireland.
- October 2012: Abird Generator Hire, one the UK’s leading diesel electric generator hire companies, enabling HSS to offer a more comprehensive service in the growing temporary power market.

As with these other acquisitions, HSS will retain the strong specialist brand of the Apex business and welcomes the expertise of the existing management team and colleagues.

About Apex Generators

Apex Generators is an experienced specialist generator hire company based in Scotland that offers complete power solutions to customers in the construction, house-building, , events, industrial, marine and offshore sectors. They operate a large modern fleet of silent diesel generators from 10kVA to 1250kVA and provide technical support and a fuel management service. For more information, please see www.apexgenerators.co.uk.

About Abird

Abird is the specialist power solutions division of the HSS Hire Group. They operate a large fleet of the latest diesel generators from 20kVA to 2000kVA, offering complete power solutions for all industries. Delivering both long and short contracts, they supply, fit, service and manage all power requirements as well as providing technical support and a fuel management service. All Abird generators are fitted with ‘RFM Smart Equipment’ technology, enabling users to monitor and manage their power requirements remotely. For more information, please see www.abird.co.uk.

About HSS Hire

HSS Hire Service Group is a UK-based tool and equipment hire chain that has been serving big businesses, trade and DIY customers since 1957. Operating under the banner of HSS Hire, the Group has an established nationwide network of over 250 locations. The company also runs a dedicated training division, offers a range of innovative hire related services and has recently completed the acquisitions of several specialist business units including TecServ, UK Platforms and Abird. HSS Hire is ISO9000, ISO14001, OHSAS18001 and SAFE-Hire certified and holds Investors in People status as well as a 4 star British Safety Award. They were the ERA’s European Rental Company of the Year in 2011 and the HAE’s Hire Company of the Year 2012. For more information please see www.hssgroup.co.uk.

Media contacts:

HSS Hire

Fiona McFadden, Head of PR, Founded
fiona.mcfadden@founded.com / 07786 736 706

Anna Exley, Head of Brand & Communications
aexley@hss.com / 07875 454 155